GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3272
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Branding Women as Witch
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of branding women as Witch are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered and women killed and the action taken against the guilty during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such cases in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 161, 160 and 136 cases were reported during 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively under murder (Section 302 IPC) and Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder (Section 304 IPC) with the motives of witchcraft in the country. State/UT-wise number of cases
.....2/

reported under murder (section 302 IPC) & culpable homicide not amounting to murder (section 304 IPC) with the motive of witchcraft during 2013-2015 is enclosed as Annexure- I.

(c): As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India `Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Harassment/torture/murder etc. which are associated with the witchcraft are already punishable crimes under Indian Penal Code (IPC). National Commission for Women (NCW) conducts seminars and workshops from time to time to create awareness on the issue and discourage such practices.

******